

What a terrific month it has been for promoting our Great City.

Last week we talked about the Flag Day Parade and what a success it was, but since then two more exciting events have taken place that once again put Troy on the map.

First there was the inaugural River Street Festival that took place last Saturday under wonderfully sunny skies that were matched with the enthusiasm of everyone involved.

By 1:30 p.m. the streets in downtown Troy were packed like they have not been in many years. The shops were full, the vendors were busy, the food was plentiful, and the music was enjoyable. I cannot describe what a feeling it is to see people walking around the streets with huge smiles on their face, as if they had just discovered something new.

Then there were the people who were coming back to Troy, maybe for the first time in a few years. This place is much different than it was four or five years ago, especially along River Street.

And the thing that made me most happy, other than the sheer number of people (which we estimate around 7,000), were the busy looks of shopkeepers. These people love what they do, and they work hard to be successful at it. It was an awesome feeling to be able to provide so many shoppers in such a quick amount of time.

The great thing about the festival is it gave people a sneak preview of what we have to offer. No, we're not going to have a festival every weekend, but those people will remember what they saw here. They will tell their friends, or they will come back themselves. Either way, we end up being the winners.

Once the cleaning up of River Street was complete (which was done by Sunday morning, thanks to the Action Team), we had another great event to look forward to- the opening of the Tri-City ValleyCats home season, which occurred Wednesday night.

For a number of reasons, Opening Day was almost perfect. We had beautiful weather (which is becoming a theme this summer), an undefeated baseball team (5-0!), and the Brooklyn Cyclones in town, who are the farm team of the New York Mets.

The crowd Wednesday was astounding, and it clearly looked as if there were many more people than seats on hand. The only thing that did not turn out right was the Cyclones won 6-3, ending the ValleyCats perfect season. All well, at least the Mets fans went home happy.

The fantastic feature about "The Joe" is that it is a wonderful meeting place. People see their neighbors, friends, and even elected officials. It's a meeting place for the entire area, especially the residents of Troy. There are 34 home games left this season, I encourage you to head out and see a few games. You can't beat it for the price.

So we're on a roll when it comes to promoting our City. That makes me happy, because I consider one of my biggest responsibilities is to be the City's biggest cheerleader. AS they say so far, so good. Let's stay on that roll.

Have a good week, and if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or complaints, do not hesitate to call me 270-4401, or e-mail me at the Mayor's Office. I can't stress enough that more and more people are exercising this option, and I will get back to people as soon as possible.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy